



**Clean Water,  
Healthy Nicaraguans**

**25**  
YEARS



CAROLINE LEAL FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS WITHOUT BORDERS

**Water is not a privilege to be taken for granted.**

**Water is a necessity to be taken responsibly.**



Dear Friends of El Porvenir,

I have been supporting El Porvenir's work for almost 25 years. At first, only by occasional small donations that my wife and I could afford while raising our children. Gradually I became more involved by going on a work brigade, forming a small local support group called the Colorado Friends of El Porvenir, and finally joining the board of directors. The factors that attracted me initially persist and continue to motivate me.

- Access to clean water and sanitation is absolutely fundamental to health and the possibility of a productive life.
- Nicaragua is the third poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.
- 25 years ago, nearly 60% of people living in rural Nicaragua did not have access to clean water. Today, it is about 31%.
- No other NGOs or government agencies were helping the rural communities that EP served.
- EP assists communities to develop projects. It doesn't do the projects for them. Community members initiate and carry out the projects, do the bulk of the work, contribute to the cost and maintain the facilities.
- EP promotes the role of women, especially in leadership positions.
- These projects offer long-term sustainability. For instance, pumps are made in Nicaragua and consist of a simple design using local materials. Latrines are "double-pit" that can be used indefinitely. Therefore, community members have the ability to maintain them.
- EP is headquartered in Nicaragua and has a continuing presence through staff members in an office in each municipality who visit the communities and work with them, including providing health education.
- EP evolves over time with changing conditions while maintaining its mission focus on clean water and sanitation. For example, EP partners with communities on: Piped water systems instead of just hand-dug wells, Watershed protection, including reforestation, and Fuel efficient stoves, which are vented to reduce the risk of respiratory disease.
- EP operates on a very tight budget. Every dollar I contribute is used very efficiently.

In addition to all of this, I am even more excited for the future. After El Porvenir's 25th anniversary year, we began our next twenty-five years by expanding into the Municipality of Waslala. Waslala is one of the poorest areas in Nicaragua and suffered especially during the Contra War.

About fourteen years ago a few graduating students from Villanova University visited Waslala, fell in love with the people, and got involved with a small community on a water project. The students continued over time with assisting other communities and, along the way, formed a small nonprofit, Water for Waslala (WfW). In 2015, WfW leadership concluded that they did not have the resources to achieve the goal of "universal access" to clean water for all of Waslala and they decided to seek a larger NGO to assume their work in an effort to achieve that goal. They, along with another larger NGO, WaterAid (WA) approached EP because of EP's operational experience and its leadership in water networks in Nicaragua. WA committed to finance 60% of the costs of projects that EP would do in Waslala, which greatly enhances each dollar that we donors may give for Waslala projects.

On April 1, 2016, EP assumed WfW's operations. On June 15th, the leaders of WfW, WA, EP, and communities that WfW had assisted held an inaugural event. My wife, Eileen, and I had the honor of participating in it. This development demonstrates that EP is well respected by other NGOs in Nicaragua and is judiciously expanding its work of fostering clean water and sanitation.

Many nonprofits are doing important work throughout the world. For 25 years EP has been assisting some of our poorest brothers and sisters that lack material resources in meeting their most basic needs in a culturally sensitive and efficient way. With your support EP will continue to do so for another 25 years.

Many thanks,



David M. Arnolds  
Chairperson of the Board

# How We Work

## Clean Water

Partner communities build and maintain hand-dug and drilled wells, piped water systems with metered taps, and biosand filters.

## Watershed Protection

Watershed protection focuses on returning stream flow and restoring forest cover to ensure communities will have abundant sources of water. Program participants are eligible to build fuel-efficient stoves in their homes that use 60% less firewood than traditional open fire stoves and have a chimney that vents harmful smoke out of the home.

## Improved Sanitation

Sanitation facilities are vital to good health. Our approach to sanitation includes double-pit latrines, school hand-washing stations, as well as community bathing and washing stations.

## Health & Hygiene Education

Our train-the-trainer methodology empowers local health educators in each community to promote sustained health. These educators and our staff members coordinate their efforts with MINSA, the Ministry of Health.

# Where We Work

Nicaragua is the third poorest country in the Western hemisphere. In a country where 31% of rural people have no safe drinking water and half of the forest cover has disappeared since 1950, El Porvenir's water, sanitation, and watershed protection programs are a critical way to improve the living standards of the rural poor while conserving environmental resources. We partner with rural communities in remote regions of the country that lack access to most basic services and are too small to receive assistance from other organizations.

There are four components to El Porvenir's work:

1. Project preparation done by the community.
2. Construction of water & sanitation infrastructure with the community.
3. Health and hygiene education to reduce water and sanitation related illnesses.
4. Watershed protection and reforestation to increase water infiltration and aquifer recharge as well as prevent landslides and soil erosion.



MAP OF NICARAGUA - SINGLE COLOR BY FREEVECTORMAPS.COM

## MILESTONES

### 1990

Carole Harper founds El Porvenir to respond to the need for clean drinking water in rural communities of Nicaragua.

### 1993

Partner communities begin building the first of many thousands of latrines with El Porvenir's supplies and technical assistance. Still only 37% of rural Nicaraguans have sanitation facilities.

### 1998

Reforestation begins. Communities plant nurseries and then transplant the seedlings to areas where the trees will grow.

### 2007

The community of Mombacho builds the first double-pit latrine. This new design allows for decades of use.

### 2008

El Porvenir takes a more comprehensive approach to securing water at its source, moving from reforestation to watershed protection.

### 2010

The first of 48 hand washing stations is built. Hand washing stations and latrines help keep children in school.

### 2015

Our watershed protection and reforestation program plants its 1 millionth tree.

# Impact 2015

Since 1990, El Porvenir has worked side-by-side with rural Nicaraguans to construct wells, latrines, washing facilities and watershed protection projects.

In 2015, El Porvenir's vital partnerships with communities produced the following accomplishments:

PROVIDED PARTNER COMMUNITIES THE SUPPLIES, TOOLS AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO BUILD THEIR OWN SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS

**21**

**Wells & Water Systems**

**451**

**Double-pit latrines**

**4,671**

**People with Clean Water**

**3,441**

**People with Improved Sanitation**

EDUCATED COMMUNITY MEMBERS ABOUT THE CONNECTION BETWEEN HYGIENE, WATER, SANITATION, AND DISEASE

**4,094**

**Chats & Home Visits**

**165**

**Trained Community Educators**

**12,791**

**Participants in Health Education Training**

IMPROVED THE QUALITY OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S LIVES AND HEALTH THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION OF IMPROVED STOVES THAT REMOVED HAZARDOUS SMOKE FROM KITCHENS

**161**

**Fuel-Efficient Stoves**

**711**

**People with Improved Stoves**

PROTECTED WATER AT ITS SOURCE, RESTORED STREAMFLOW, PROTECTED HABITAT, AND STRENGTHENED SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

**83,708**

**Trees Planted**



# Our Stories



**“Now, we are safer. There is no danger of getting a belly sickness from drinking dirty water.”**

*JOSEFA BRAVO AMADOR, COMMUNITY PARTNER*

Being a single parent takes courage, determination, and a lot of love. Josefa Bravo Amador, a single mother of two, and now a grandmother, has all of those attributes. She shares her story with us and remembers her life of struggle as she tried to care for her children before her community had a well, washing-station, and latrines.

“We gathered water in watering holes in a neighboring farm and bathed in the stream. We went to the fields to do our business, but many times there was danger of a snake bite. MINSA [Nicaraguan Health Ministry] came often to give us pills for parasites; they said the illnesses we had — like diarrhea and rashes — were from parasites.”

Through El Porvenir’s partners such as the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Amador’s community now has a well, washing station, and latrines.

“Now, we are safer. There is no danger of being bitten by an animal or getting a belly sickness from drinking dirty water. My children and their children, who live here with me, don’t get sick so often. We are all healthier now.”

**“We coordinated together, developing water and sanitation projects in the neediest communities.”**

*MARLON MARCELO ANDRADES, PROJECT DEVELOPER AND COORDINATOR*

In 1994, one of El Porvenir’s first water projects was done with the community members of El Cacao Maunica and was carried out in Ciudad Darío. It makes me happy when I go back to that community and see that the project is still working there.

I started working with El Porvenir as a volunteer 19 years ago. I was working for an organization called FUPEC and that was where I first heard of El Porvenir. In my case, FUPEC and El Porvenir coordinated together. I liked the work that EP was doing because they focused on developing water and sanitation projects in communities that were most at need.

The technical knowledge I have acquired through my work experience with El Porvenir has not only transformed my life but the lives of the communities we partner with. We are all working together, bringing clean water and sanitation to people who do not have access to it because everyone deserves clean water and sanitation.

After 19 years, I am more passionate about the work EP is doing and I’m proud that we partner with small rural communities that have gone unnoticed by other organizations.



**“I can still hear the voice of a grandmother who was so full of appreciation for our partnership”**

*LIZ SPECHT, BOARD MEMBER*

**“My son, Ben Linder, was not alone in his efforts, he was not the only one with courage to work alongside rural communities.”**

*ELISABETH LINDER, DONOR*

When Ed and Liz Specht moved to the Bay Area in 1976, they put down roots at St. John the Evangelist Church. It was there they met Carole Harper, El Porvenir’s founder. They had no idea this friendship would unfold a lifetime of partnerships with rural communities across Nicaragua.

Carole sent a postcard from Nicaragua that Liz still treasures. It features smiling Nicaraguan faces and doves of peace on the front with the message “Gracias a Dios y a la Revolucion”. On the back, Carole wrote: “I can’t wait to tell you how exciting it is here. If all this hope and effort is lost, it will be a sin before God. Love, Carole.”

In 1988, during her first of many trips to Nicaragua, Liz was so influenced by the spirit, ingenuity and resilience of the people of Nicaragua, her heart would be forever tied to theirs. Just a year later, right in Liz’s living room, El Porvenir was launched to bring the self-help model to the need for clean water and basic health education.

One of her proudest moments as a board member came in 2007, when her college roommate, Pat Long, was inspired to make a contribution to fund latrines for each family in the village of Los Cerritos. Together, Pat and Liz traveled with a group to Nicaragua to see - and celebrate - the projects and partnerships of El Porvenir. That group included Jan Adams and Mark Smith, who now serve on the board of directors. The group had the opportunity to commemorate a water project that was funded by their fellow St. Johns community member and friend, Harvey Cochien, in honor of his mother, Rosa Tan Cochien.

“I can still hear the voice of a grandmother who was so full of appreciation for our partnership. That simple rope pump bringing up clean water from deep in a hand-dug well was her dream come true.” Liz reminisces.

For over 25 years, Liz has been an impassioned and powerful voice for El Porvenir.

**Why do you donate to El Porvenir?**

I’ve donated to El Porvenir for the last 18 years because they empower the people of rural Nicaragua to do for themselves. A mother does not want someone to come and give her children water, she wants to be able to give her children water. El Porvenir allows locals the privilege of taking responsibility for their children and community into their own hands.

**What makes El Porvenir stand out to you?**

Partnership and collaboration are necessary. El Porvenir understands this. We have to work together, using all of our resources and efforts to make a difference. My son, Ben Linder, was not alone in his efforts, he was not the only one with courage to work alongside rural communities. His dream and hope for the future of Nicaragua has been the passion and life work of many.

**Why clean water and improved sanitation?**

My son was brutally murdered for bringing electricity to a few people in northern Nicaragua. He was murdered because he had a dream and because he had the courage to make that dream come true. Not many of us can say that. What was the dream? To make it possible for a few villages to have a light bulb in their homes so their day doesn’t have to end at six o’clock when it gets dark, to get drinking water so that their children don’t have to die of diarrhea in the first years of their lives, and to raise them out of poverty so they can raise their children with hope for the future.

After almost 30 years since his death, Ben Linder’s legacy and dream lives on. In 2015, **20,329** Nicaraguans partnered with El Porvenir to improve their standard of living through water, sanitation, health education, and watershed protection projects.

# Financials

A copy of complete audited financial statements with an auditor's report by Clausen & Associates PAs, our independent auditor, may be obtained upon request or at [www.elporvenir.org](http://www.elporvenir.org).

## ASSETS

### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash	\$321,141
Accounts Receivable	\$44,987
Promises to Give (short term)	\$111,169
Inventory	\$7,227
Property and Equipment	\$63,980
Promises to Give (long term)	\$0
Investments	\$98,365
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$646,869</b>

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

### CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$6,557
Expenses	\$58,170
Deferred Revenue	\$0
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$64,727</b>

### NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$288,478
Temporarily Restricted	\$293,664
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$582,142</b>

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$646,869</b>
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## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

### UNRESTRICTED SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Contributions	\$364,505
Work Trips	\$316,936
Local Contributions	\$17,673
Donated Services	\$19,547
Other	\$24,672
Investment Income	\$2,241

<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>	<b>\$745,574</b>
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### TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Contributions	\$423,645
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	-\$64,214

<b>CHANGE IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$359,431</b>
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## INCOME

Contributions Unrestricted	\$745,574
Contributions Restricted	\$423,645
Gain (loss) on sale of assets	-\$1,093
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,168,126</b>

## EXPENSES

Program Services	\$1,009,917
General and Administrative	\$121,373
Fundraising	\$99,416
Unrealized loss on investments	\$4,570
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,235,276</b>

<b>NET ASSETS: START OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$626,654</b>
<b>NET ASSETS: END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$582,142</b>

# Board & Staff

## BOARD MEMBERS

Chair, David M. Arnolds, J.D.  
 Vice-Chair, Mark Smith  
 Treasurer, Jack Dunn  
 Secretary, Joe Sloan  
 Chris Conway  
 Joni Foster  
 Fredrick C. Cooper, PhD, P.E.  
 Raymond P. Finney, BA, MRE  
 Jan Adams  
 Leslie Moulton  
 Liz Specht  
 Gabriela Tinoco, MS

## STAFF

### MANAGUA:

**Rob Bell**  
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Cesar Enoc del Castillo**  
 DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

**Gabriela Espinosa**  
 OPERATIONS ASSISTANT

**Yesenia Matamoros**  
 FINANCE DIRECTOR

**Meyling Sosa**  
 ACCOUNTANT

**Teodora González**  
 CARETAKER

**Cynthia Calderón**  
 ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT

**Wilbert Acevedo**  
 LOGISTICS

### DARÍO/TERRABONA:

**Marlon Andrades**  
**David Ruiz**  
**Mayra Matamoros**  
**Léster González**  
**Marlon Alvizúa**  
**Wendy Escorcía**

### EL SAUCE:

**Oneida Hernández**  
**Sonia Reyes**  
**Erick Velásquez**

### CAMOAPA:

**Ángel Rivas**  
**Carlos Bodán**  
**Eddy Figueroa**

### SAN LORENZO:

**Eduardo Duarte**  
**Fabiola Espinoza**

### UNITED STATES:

**Preston Dickey**  
 DIRECTOR OF U.S. OPERATIONS

**Theresa Mazza**  
 OUTREACH DIRECTOR

**Silvia Otero**  
 U.S. OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

**Jo Buescher**  
 WORK TRIP COORDINATOR

# Thank You

In 2015, we received the financial support of:

**714**

**Individuals and families**

**28**

**Foundations**

**57**

**Churches and  
communities of faith**

**250** volunteers joined us on transformative work trips, performed critical duties in our offices and powered many projects.

Your gifts of time and resources make our work possible. Thank you for being a partner!



**El Porvenir**

Clean Water, Healthy Nicaraguans

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